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# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting in San Francisco on Tuesday, December 9

### *Actions to Be Taken on Legislative Priorities and Probate Conservatorship Reforms*

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, in the Judicial Council Conference Center, Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, Third Floor, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

Chaired by Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the council is the 27-member administrative policymaking body of the California courts. The meeting will be audiocast live on the California Courts Web site at

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc). The agenda and reports are available online at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age120908.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age120908.pdf). Highlights follow:

**Legislative Priorities:** The council will consider a recommendation that it continue to sponsor legislation on (1) reform of the Judges' Retirement System II, and (2) new judgeships. The council also will consider sponsoring legislation to implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care.

**Probate Conservatorship Reforms:** The council will consider a progress report on the implementation status of the 85 recommendations of the Probate Conservatorship Task Force, in addition to proposals that it adopt recommended best practices and publish a guide for the trial courts. The proposals are designed to establish more uniform practices and procedures and improve the administration of probate conservatorship programs throughout the state.

**Electronic Discovery:** The council will consider responsoring legislation on the following issues: (1) electronic discovery; (2) postjudgment fees in small claims proceedings; (3) Court Interpreters Advisory Panel membership: American Sign Language interpreters; (4) reimbursement for costs associated with providing minor's counsel in dependency cases; and (5) collection of unpaid bail amounts by the Franchise Tax Board.

**Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedules:** The council will consider revisions to the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedules to become effective January 1, 2009. Vehicle Code section 40310 provides that the Judicial Council must annually adopt a uniform traffic penalty schedule for all nonparking Vehicle Code infractions. The report on the new and proposed bail and penalty schedules may be viewed at this link:  
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/reports/120908item3.pdf>.

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*The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.*